

Announcement of a public comment period for modifications to the TMDL study to restore water quality in the Mountain Run, Mine Run Watersheds in Orange County, Virginia.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on modifications of the water quality improvement study entitled "Bacteria TMDLs for Mountain Run and Mine Run, Orange County, Virginia" by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ).

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) of bacteria were developed to address bacteria impairments in the Mountain Run and Mine Run watersheds. These TMDLs were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency on 11/15/2005 and can be found at the following website: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/apptmdls/rapprvr/mtnmine.pdf>. Following the approval of this TMDL, it became apparent that the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permit for Locust Grove Elementary School (VA0078131) was inadvertently omitted from the wasteload allocation (WLA) for Mine Run. While the original TMDL did leave room from some growth of point sources in the watershed, the growth allotted was not enough to cover the wasteload allocation for Locust Grove Elementary School. Accordingly, the purpose of this modification memo is 1.) Update the WLA for Mine Run to include the load from Locust Grove Elementary School (VA0078131); 2.) Update the WLA for Mine Run to include the load from two general permits for domestic sewage discharge that were permitted following the approval of this TMDL by EPA; and 3.) Include a growth factor of 5 times the individual point source load for Mine Run (i.e. 5 times the WLA for Locust Grove Elementary School) to account for the future growth and expansion of point sources in the watershed.

The proposed increase in WLA will not cause a water quality exceedance because Virginia's Water Quality standards for bacteria require that treated effluent discharged into a receiving stream meet the bacteria criteria for the stream. VDEQ has performed additional modeling to confirm that at 5 times the wasteload allocation, the water quality standard would not be exceeded if permitted dischargers are required to discharge at an *E. coli* concentration of 126 cfu/100ml. DEQ is currently seeking written comments on the modification of this TMDL. To review the proposed revisions to the wasteload allocation tables and TMDL equation tables, please contact Katie Conaway using the information listed below.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The modifications to the Mountain Run, Mine Run Bacteria TMDL will undergo a 30-day public comment period. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will prepare a TMDL modification document and submit the document to EPA for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by email, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, and be received by DEQ at the address provided below during the comment period, February 18, 2008 to March 18, 2008.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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